

Ryan Gustafson
1336 N.W. 23rd Lane
Ankeny, Iowa 50023

January 2, 2010

Mayor Steven D. Van Oort & Ankeny City Council
Ankeny City Hall
410 W. 1st St.
Ankeny, IA 50023

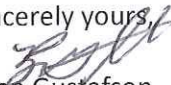
Dear Mayor Van Oort & Ankeny City Council:

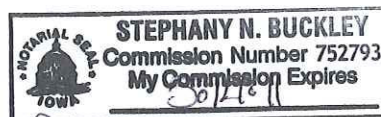
My name is Ryan Gustafson. I was involved in an auto collision on December 12, 2009 at the intersection of N.W. Ashland Parkway and N.W. 18th Street. The reason for the accident was that I was unable to see a car approaching in the westbound lane on 18th St. as I attempted to turn east from the southbound lane of Ashland Pkwy. My vision was blocked by the large piles of snow lining 18th St. after the recent 15 inch snow fall Ankeny received a couple days prior.

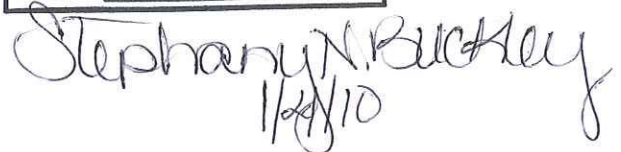
Shortly after the accident, I phoned Public Works Administrator Al Olsen to make sure he knew of the vision problem at the intersection. He informed me that crews would be making a second pass of the intersection to further improve area. When the crews came by the second time, they plowed an additional 2 feet of snow from the edge of the curb into the parking. This did improve the situation and gave those traveling on the road an improved view of the westbound traffic on 18th St., but I still did not feel the traffic traveling southbound on Ashland Pkwy. had a sufficient view of the traffic in the westbound lane of 18th St. In a second conversation with Mr. Olsen, I made him aware of my concern for the southbound traffic on Ashland Pkwy. After this conversation I saw no change in the conditions at the intersection. Mr. Olsen was very polite and always returned my calls in a reasonable amount of time. He also assured me that anytime I had a concern I was encouraged to give him a call to let him know about it.

The reason for this letter is not Mr. Olsen but to make others aware of the unsafe conditions at this intersection. My recommendation for our city is that when large amounts of snow accumulate along the side of the road blocking the view of oncoming traffic (especially at night) that a temporary stop sign be placed at the intersection to prevent another accident from happening. This would improve the safety of all who use the intersection.

In Ankeny, as well as the State of Iowa, there are restrictions placed on residence from planting too close to the road as well as requirements for residence to keep trees from blocking the view of oncoming traffic in intersections. Please consider this recommendation as a means to furthering our mutual goal of keeping all in the City of Ankeny safe and out of harm's way. Enclosed are some photographs taken from the scene of the accident.

Sincerely yours,

Ryan Gustafson




1/24/10

